First Nations Forestry Program

In partnership with First Nations

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

Natural Resources Canada / Ressources naturelles Canada

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada / Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada

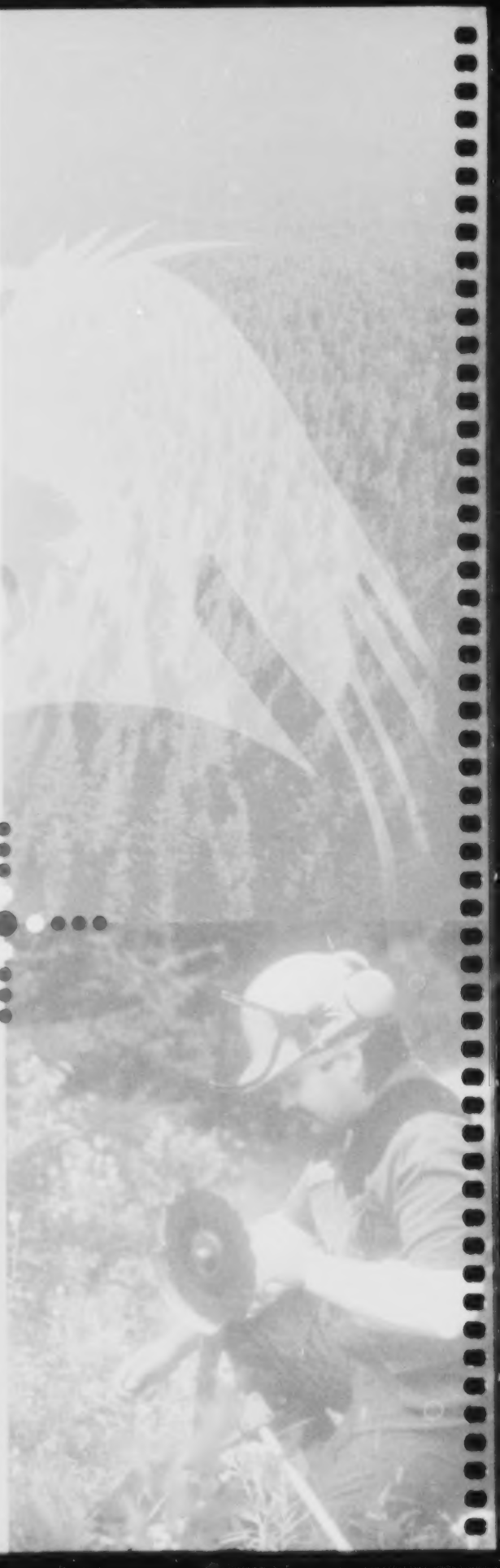
Canada

First Nations Forestry Program

The purpose of the

First Nations Forestry Program

is to improve economic conditions in status First Nation communities with full consideration of the principles of sustainable forest management.



First Nations Forestry Program

Annual Report
2004–2005

A JOINT INITIATIVE BETWEEN

Natural Resources Canada and
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

2007-05703/

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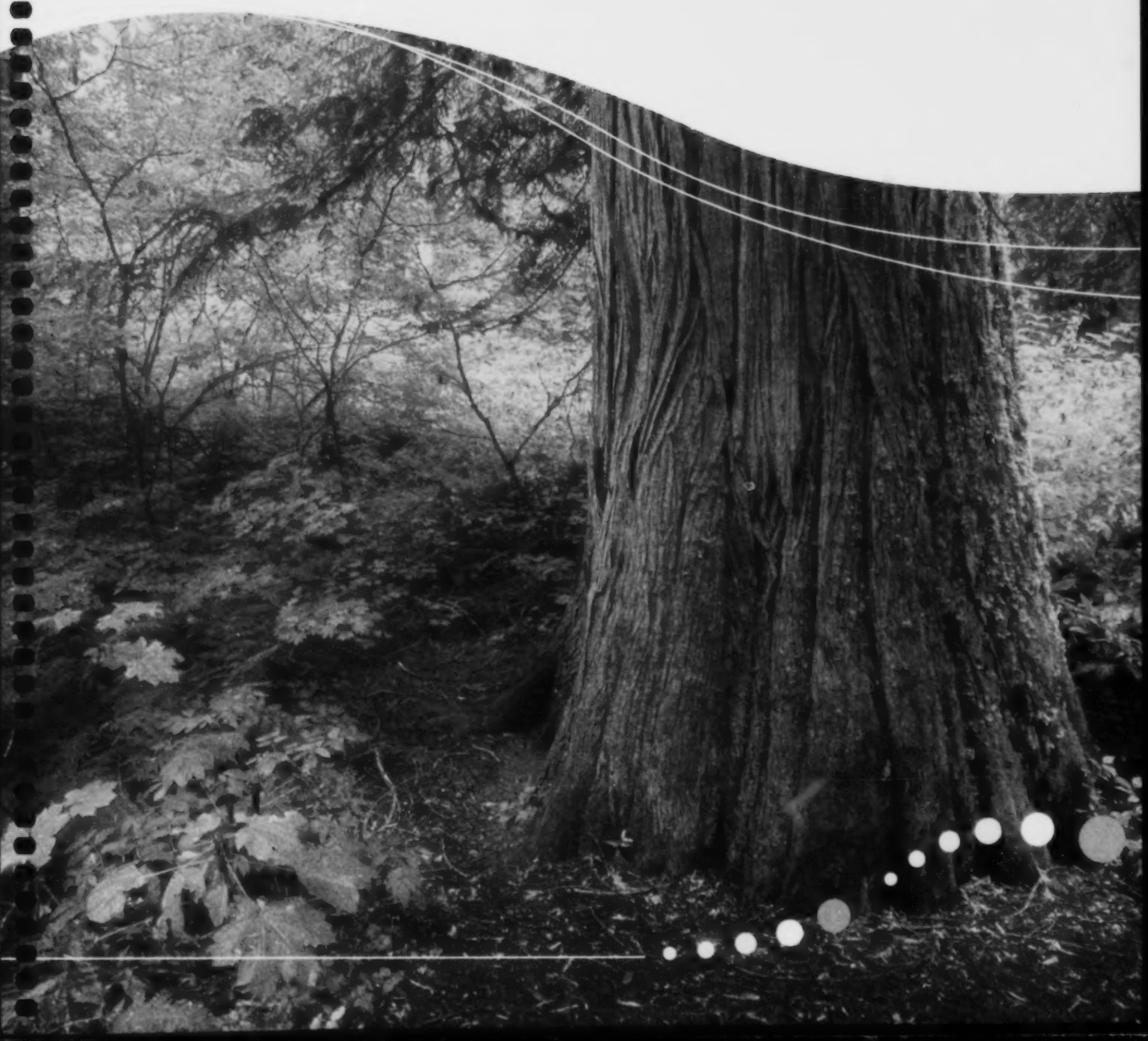


Report Highlights

In 2004–2005, 168 projects were funded by the First Nations Forestry Program (FNFP), reaching 159 First Nations communities, organisations, or businesses. Thirty-two of these communities or organisations received FNFP funding for the first time.

FNFP expended a total of $4 million, leveraging additional cash and in-kind contributions from partners for a total project value of $14 million.

Projects in this fiscal year related to forest management (54%), training and skill development (20%), business development (16%), and access to forest resources (3%).

FNFP continued to support the New Brunswick Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership regional scale initiative, a multi-year, multi-million dollar initiative benefiting all First Nations in New Brunswick.

Under the Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative, Federal Forest Lands Rehabilitation Program, Natural Resources Canada contributed an additional $943 000 to assist First Nations in mitigating the risks associated with the infestation of the mountain pine beetle. This funding supported 47 projects in 39 communities in British Columbia and Alberta.

Year in Review

Introduction

Forests play a central role—culturally, spiritually and economically—in the lives of the majority of First Nations communities across Canada. Their importance continues to be relevant as more forest land is coming under First Nation control and management, First Nation youth are joining the forest sector labour force, and business is actively seeking First Nation co-venture partners and contractors. For many First Nations, forestry and forest-based development are key opportunities for economic self-sufficiency.

The First Nations Forestry Program (FNFP), jointly funded by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Natural Resources Canada, is the primary federal government program dedicated to building First Nations capac ty and technical skills to manage forests sustainably and to participate in and benefit from on- and off-reserve forest-based development opportunities.

Since 1996, the FNFP has funded some 1700 projects valued at $137 million in over 450 communities across Canada. During this period the FNFP has contributed approximately $40 million, or 29% towards overall project costs. The federal government partnership with First Nations, provincial and territorial governments and the forest industry has provided opportunities for some 6000 First Nations workers to gain experience on projects to improve their skills and capacity in sustainable forest management, and to increase their participation in Canada's forest sector. A list of projects funded in 2004–2005 is available in Annex 2.

Program Budget

In 2004–2005, the FNFP budget was $5.25 million,[1] with the funding breakdown as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. FNFP budget 2004–2005 ($ million).

	NRCan[a]	INAC[b]	Total
Contributions	1.000	2.875	3.875
Operating Expenses			
Salaries	0.250	0.125	0.375
Operating and Minor Capital	0.500	0.500	1.000
Total	1.750	3.500	5.250

[a] Natural Resources Canada

[b] Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

The FNFP budget was allocated by province and territory as outlined in Table 2.

Table 2. Allocation of FNFP budget to provinces and territories, 2004–2005. ($000)

	Grants and Contributions	Operating Capital	Total
BC	837.0	143.0	980.0
AB	399.1	71.0	470.1
SK	375.5	69.5	445.0
MB	286.9	63.5	350.4
ON	673.6	149.5	823.1
QC	573.1	143.0	716.1
NB	282.1	41.5	323.6
PE	10.3	2.0	12.3
NS	173.3	24.0	197.3
NL	70.3	2.0	72.3
NT	106.2	17.5	123.7
YT	102.3	0	102.3
Corporate Funding			
NRCan	118.2	390.6	508.8
INAC	0	125.0	125.0
Total	4007.9	1242.1	5250.0

Community Participation

The FNFP funded 168 projects and worked with 159 First Nation communities, organisations or businesses in 2004–2005. Of these, 32 were projects for a First Nation community, organisation or business receiving FNFP support for the first time. This indicates that the FNFP is still relevant and that there is ongoing demand for the program from new entrants.

Table 3 tabulates the level of participation by First Nation proponents by province and territory. Annex 1 shows the number and value of proposals submitted and approved (see Annex 2, Table 1A); it also illustrates total contributions by province from FNFP and project partners (see Annex 2, Table 2A).

[1] In addition, the Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative's Federal Forest Lands Rehabilitation Program—First Nations Element delivered in British Columbia is allocated funding of $1.5 million in support of projects mitigating the mountain pine beetle epidemic on reserve forest lands. In British Columbia, decisions on the allocation of these funds rest with the FNFP Management Board. Therefore, the total budget for First Nations forestry in 2004–2005 was $6.75 million.

Table 3. Number of projects and community participation, 2004–2005.

	No. of Projects	No. of Communities and Organisations	No. of New Communities and Organisations
BC	36	36	7
AB	23	23	5
SK	18	16	3
MB	14	12	3
ON	33	31	9
QC	21	21	3
NB	7[a]	7	1
PE	1	1	0
NS	12[b]	12	0
NL	1	1	0
NT	5	6	0
YT	1[b]	1	0
National	7	3	1
Total	**179**	**170**	**32**

[a] Note: This number includes the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership Initiative which reaches all Aboriginal communities in New Brunswick.

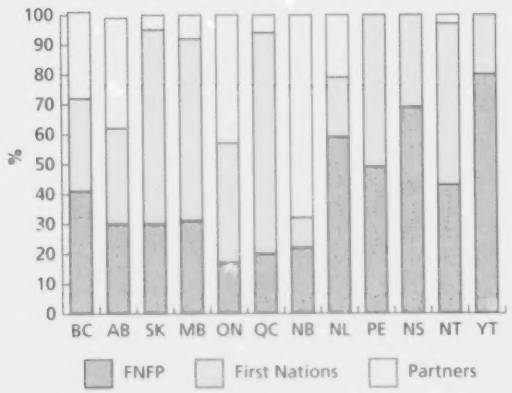
[b] Note: The Council of Yukon First Nations and the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'Kmaq are, respectively, responsible for FNFP administration and delivery, there is only one contribution agreement in each of these two regions, although a number of projects are undertaken.

Funding from First Nations and Partners

Community projects receiving FNFP funding must have band support and funding from First Nations. In many cases, First Nation project proponents team up with other partners to ensure projects have sufficient funding to succeed. FNFP funding leverages significant cash and in-kind support from First Nations and their partners. In 2004–2005, the Program contributed 27% of the total value of project expenditures, while First Nations contributed 45% and their partners 28%. Table 4 shows sources of funding for FNFP projects.

The level of funding contributed to projects by First Nations and their partners varies across regions. In New Brunswick, for example, where projects funded include the $1 million per year Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership Initiative, funding from project partners is the highest at 68%. In Ontario and British Columbia, First Nations and partners contributed 83% and 60% respectively to total project costs. Figure 1 shows the breakdown of funding sources by province and territory.

Figure 1. Project funding by source of funds, 2004–2005.



First Nations Forestry Program Business Lines

The FNFP assists First Nations to increase their participation in the forest sector by providing funding in four major interrelated business lines (see Figure 2).

Figure 2. First Nations Forestry Program business lines.

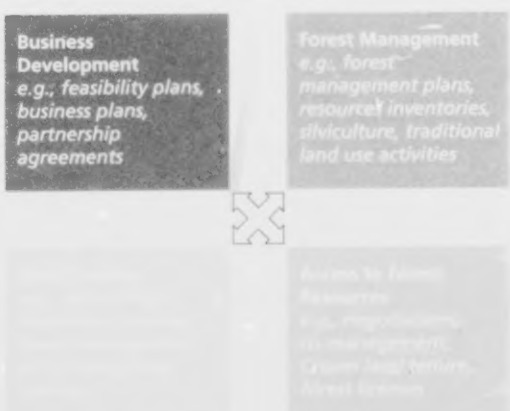

Business Development
e.g., feasibility plans, business plans, partnership agreements
Forest Management
e.g., forest management plans, resource inventories, silviculture, traditional land use activities

Table 4. Project funding by source of funds, 2004–2005 ($000).

	FNFP Contribution Funds	First Nations			Partners[a]			Total
		Cash	In-kind	Total	Cash	In-kind	Total	
All Projects	3843	4693	1638	6331	3296	650	3946	14120
% of the Total	**27%**			**45%**			**28%**	

[a] Private sector and federal and provincial/territorial government agencies.

Forest Management

The majority of First Nations are at the developmental stage of forest management capacity requiring support to manage and develop forest resources. The FNFP provides funding for tools to increase forest management capacity, such as forest management plans, forest inventory assessments, and traditional land-use studies, as well as funding for on-reserve forest management initiatives such as various silviculture and stand improvement activities.

Forest-based Business Development

Many First Nations are also seeking greater participation in and benefits from the forestry sector through forest-based business opportunities on- and off-reserve. FNFP provides funding support for business feasibility studies, market analyses, and business planning.

Skills Training

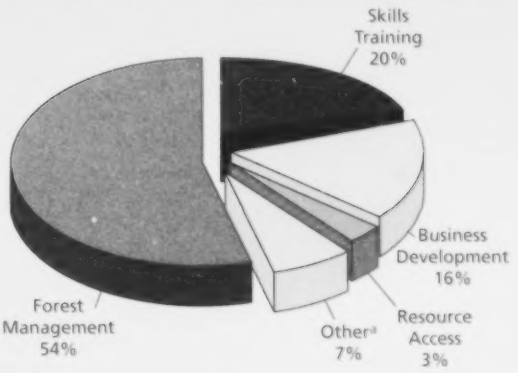
There is still a large gap between First Nations and non-Aboriginal Canadians in terms of employment and income. Forestry and logging remains an important source of employment for First Nations, relative to the overall Canadian labour force. (See Annex 3 for an overview and statistical profile on First Nations demographics, education, and engagement in the forest sector.) To enhance First Nations employment in the forest sector, many First Nations require skills training in, for example, silviculture practices, harvesting, and forest inventory techniques. The FNFP helps fund these training activities.

Access to Forest Resources

FNFP supports First Nations to increase their access to forest resources by providing funding to help in Crown land tenure arrangements, support for background research in forest licence applications and for forest tenure mapping.

FNFP funding focuses primarily on forest management activities and forest management capacity-building (54%). Skills training for forest management and labour force activities form a key activity area (20%), as does forest-based business development (16%). The portion of funding to enhance First Nations' access to forest resources (currently 3%) is expected to increase as First Nations move up the forestry development curve in terms of forest management and professional/technical skills capacity (see Figure 3).

Figure 3. FNFP funding by business line, 2004–2005.



[a] Includes support for First Nations to attend conferences, field trips, program management meetings, etc.

New Brunswick Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership Initiative

In addition to community level projects, FNFP also contributed $70 000 to the New Brunswick Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP–NB Inc.) regional scale initiative. The initiative supports forestry skills training and job placement benefiting all New Brunswick First Nation communities. The total FNFP contribution over this four-year initiative is $280 000.

FNFP was instrumental in facilitating the early development of the initiative in which industry, government and Aboriginal partners are contributing a total of $4 million over the four years. Partners supporting the initiative include Mawiw Tribal Council, North Shore District Tribal Council, St. John River Valley Tribal Council, First Nations Human Resources Development Corporation, New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council, New Brunswick Forest Products Association, Government of New Brunswick, and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

Communications and Outreach Activities

Communications and outreach activities are an important part of the regional and national implementation of the FNFP. These activities help to raise awareness of the program and allow First Nations and others to share knowledge and experience related to First Nations forestry. Increased awareness of the program also helps to attract partners to participate through funding partnerships or by sharing expertise as part of the provincial and territorial management committees.

Communications

In 2004, the program launched the FNFP e-Bulletin, a two-page information sheet, which provides news, updates on the program, as well as information on successful projects from across the country. The e-Bulletin is distributed electronically and by fax monthly to over 1000 subscribers and is also available on the FNFP web site (www.fnfp.gc.ca).

Outreach

In May 2004, over 300 delegates from across Canada participated in a three-day National Conference on Aboriginal Forestry in Thunder Bay, Ontario. The theme of the conference was Creating a New Climate for Aboriginal Forestry, which included workshops on Aboriginal-industry partnerships, cultural research, legal developments, provincial, national and international policies, parks and protected areas, non-timber forest products, and Aboriginal initiatives in Canada's Model Forests. Conference proceedings are available on the FNFP web site.

In March 2005, the FNFP, together with Canada's Model Forest Program, hosted a two-day workshop, How to Measure Good Forest Management — An Aboriginal Perspective, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Over 80 First Nations forestry managers, land owners and government officials, mostly from Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Ontario, attended to learn more about how to include Aboriginal values and practices in sustainable forest management.

In March 2005, the Manitoba FNFP Management Committee held a regional conference, Youth, Partnerships, and Careers in Forestry, in Winnipeg. The conference was coordinated and co-hosted with the Black River First Nation, and involved participants of all ages from First Nation communities across Canada. Presentations showcased partnerships between First Nation communities and forestry companies, including the Black River First Nation's sawmill operation, developed with Tembec Inc. and other partners.

Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative — First Nations Element

A total of 39 First Nations participated in the program under the Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative (MPBI), Federal Forest Lands Rehabilitation Program — First Nations Element, implementing 47 projects for a total expenditure of $942 655.

Project activities included: planning (beetle management strategy plans, ground surveys and treatment prescriptions), control (fall & burn and debarking treatments, pheromone acquisition and baiting, sanitation harvesting, and salvage harvesting), and site rehabilitation (site preparation, seedling acquisition and planting). Mountain pine beetle-related forest fuel management activities were also undertaken to assist First Nations in mitigating wildfire hazards and threats to First Nations communities.

Under the MPBI Federal Forest Lands Rehabilitation Program — First Nations element, mountain pine beetle activities were carried out on Dominion Coal Blocks through First Nations in the Cranbrook, British Columbia area where the federal property is located. MPBI activities included primarily MPB planning and control activities that were implemented by the Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Tribal Council (KKTC) and affiliated band members. In 2004 – 2005, a total of $573 017 was expended by the MPBI through a contract with KKTC to carry out the MPBI activities on the property.

A more thorough description of the MPBI is found in the section *Federal Programs Working Together* of this report.

Project Audits

Four FNFP projects receiving funding in 2003 – 2004 were audited in 2004 – 2005 by Audit and Consulting Canada. The following recipients were audited: Kwantlen First Nation (British Columbia), Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (Nova Scotia), Conseil de la Nation Micmac de Gaspeg (Quebec), and the Council of Yukon First Nations (Yukon Territory).

In response to the audit findings, revisions are being made to the standard Contribution Agreement format and the Manual of Standards and Procedures to ensure updated and more consistent definitions and standards in program delivery across the country. For example, the definition of "in-kind contributions" was amended to include national definitions of eligible costs and a standard percentage of funding for project administration and implementation.

Looking Ahead

The current FNFP expires in March 2008. Over the next two years, the FNFP will continue to act as a key advocate for First Nations forestry, building awareness around challenges, opportunities and best

practices. The program will continue to provide funding for projects at the community level, while also exploring regional-scale opportunities that attract major funding partnerships and take advantage of economies of scale to benefit large numbers of communities.

First Nations Forestry Program
Success Stories

Skawahlook Entrepreneurs Preserving Traditions

Skawahlook First Nation in British Columbia has recently completed construction of a new woodworking and picture framing shop. The workshop is an integral component of larger, $1.5 million, Band Administration and Business Development Centre complex. The facility provides administration office space and houses three small businesses: a coffee shop, a fishing tackle shop, and an arts and crafts store.

Skawahlook First Nation is situated on a major transportation corridor on the lower Fraser River near Agassiz, British Columbia. With a steady stream of potential customers driving past, the location is ideal for commercial enterprise. The new business development complex was built to capitalize on this opportunity.

In 2003, the First Nation Forestry Program (FNFP) supported an inventory of Skawahlook reserve lands which indicated that timber resources are very limited. The report recommended pursuing businesses that do not depend on the availability of timber as a raw material, such as a woodworking shop producing small crafted items from residual pieces of wood. The construction of the wood working shop in 2004 is the fruition of this recommendation, and has created the foundation for a sustainable forest-based business.

The woodworking and picture framing shops have resulted in three full-time positions, as well as some shorter term seasonal work. In addition to providing employment and skills training opportunities for band members, the woodworking shop helps to preserve traditions of Skawahlook arts and crafts. The whole idea behind the woodworking shop, crafts and picture-framing outlet is to offer very skilled wood products reflecting the decorative traditions of the Skawahlook First Nations.

FNFP supported the project with $25 000 for building materials, shop supplies and equipment, and wages for construction and management services. Skawahlook First Nations contributed the same amount from a combination of cash and in-kind services. Sto:lo Human Resources Development Agency provided over $50 000 for training and wages.

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A "Forestry Toolbox" for Quebec First Nations Communities

On November 12, 1997, the Chiefs Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador adopted the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (FNQL) "Sustainable Development Strategy." Adoption of the strategy, in turn, led to creation of the FNQL Sustainable Development Institute (SDI). This organisation's mandate is to encourage First Nations to implement the Sustainable Development Strategy by helping them acquire the needed tools. The Institute, with offices located in Wendake near Quebec City, is an important technical resource in developing forest management capacity in Aboriginal communities.

In 2004–2005, the FNFP supported the FNQL SDI project to create paper and electronic versions of a Forestry Toolbox designed specifically for Quebec First Nations communities.

According to the Institute's executive director, Ms S. Basile, "The Forestry Toolbox [a first for Quebec] contains a variety of documents, prepared by FNQL SDI and other forest industry representatives, which will help communities to develop or improve their own forestry reference materials."

The Forestry Toolbox has since been distributed to 40 First Nations communities in Quebec, featuring useful information such as:

- reference material on First Nations forestry standardization and land protection measures;
- a review of forestry co-management models;
- a review of the Forestry Act and regulations, and of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Canadian Standards Association (CSA) certification procedures;
- the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Consultation Protocol;
- the findings of the Quebec Task Force on Public Forest Management; and
- information on the First Nations Forestry Program.

The Quebec Regional Coordinator for FNFP, Mr. Alain Dubois of Natural Resources Canada, believes that "the Forestry Toolbox is a useful resource that will save Quebec Aboriginal communities time and money when searching for information or developing community initiatives in conjunction with the forest industry."

For more information on this project, please contact:
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First Nations Forestry Program in Nova Scotia

The FNFP is delivered in Nova Scotia by the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (CMM). During 2004–2005, CMM received $181 300 from FNFP to undertake 41 projects in twelve Nova Scotia First Nations communities. With cash and in-kind contributions from partners, the total value increased to $262 400.

Expertise and training is provided by CMM Forestry Manager Alton Hudson who has led and encouraged the province's thirteen Mi'kmaq First Nations in a variety of successful forestry activities for over 20 years.

CMM's success in building partnerships also plays an important role. For example, with contributions from the Nova Forest Alliance and FNFP, CMM is developing a best practices manual called Awakening: Living with Today's Forest. The guidebook blends modern forestry practices with traditional Mi'kmaq values and approaches, and includes sections on the history and traditional use of the forest and its ecological bounty.

CMM projects covered a range of silviculture activities, as well as forestry-related undertakings such as the Pictou First Nation's certification audit. This community's forest land was the first Aboriginal land in Canada to achieve certification under Canada's Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standards. The utilization of horse logging over time has reduced the impact of harvesting on their woodlot, which in turn contributed toward the community's successful FSC audit.

Training is also an important goal, and CMM utilized FNFP funds to create opportunities in communities such as the Eskasoni First Nation, an isolated community on Cape Breton Island. The first Aboriginal team in North America to join the annual Envirothon program was from the Eskasoni Regional High School in 2003. CMM sent three First Nations teams from Cape Breton Island to the 2004 competition and helped the Nova Scotia Forestry Association to promote Envirothon in another six First Nations communities.

The diversity of CMM's FNFP projects benefits Nova Scotia's First Nations communities through sustainable forest management and building for the future through entrepreneurship and training activities.

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Peguis First Nation Looks to the Future

Located 180 km north of Winnipeg in the Interlake area, Peguis First Nation is the largest First Nations community in Manitoba with a community population of approximately 7200 people. The Peguis Forest Harvesting Program reflects the community's desire to work with industry, government, and other First Nations to create long-term economic opportunities to ensure that a new generation of First Nations workers will be introduced to the principles of sustainable forest management.

Peguis First Nation's 2004 – 2005 project marked the fourth year of operation for the Forest Harvesting Program with a contribution of $28 250 from the FNFP. Since the program began the FNFP has supported this and other Peguis training programs with a total of over $110 000.

The goal of the 2004 – 2005 project was to increase the diversity and sustainability of the local forest economy. This was achieved through a comprehensive training program, with trainees receiving instruction in areas such as logging safety, environmental standards, best management practices and logging aesthetics, Elders' perspectives, first aid/CPR, forest harvesting techniques, and business concepts.

"With strong potential for growth in the forest sector, it is important to develop a forestry training program to prepare the community for both growth and new opportunities," explained Cheryl Bear of the Peguis Development Corporation.

New to the program this year was the acquisition of a Class I driver's license by all seven participants. Upon project completion, some of the trainees had already found on-reserve employment. Others were already pursuing entrepreneurial opportunities such as operating trucking businesses and hauling wood on-reserve.

As the Forest Harvesting Program evolved, the Peguis First Nation established relationships with stakeholders such as Manitoba Conservation, Tembec Inc., First Nation Limited Partnership, and various wood buyers. These relationships have resulted in increased capacity within the community and employment opportunities for Peguis members. In the coming years, Peguis First Nation hopes to continue creating such opportunities and building additional relationships with new partners.

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First Nation's Traditional Land Use Certification Program
December 16, 2004

One-of-a-kind in Western Canada

Red Crow Community College is situated on the Blood Reserve near the town of Cardston in southern Alberta. In April 2004, the college received $30 000 from FNFP toward support of its new Traditional Land Use Study Program, the first of its kind in Western Canada.[2]

The one-year course is geared to industry and designed to equip students for work in the resource sector. Students receive training on global positioning systems (GPS) and geographical information systems (GIS), and gain experience in field data collection. Practical exercises train students to locate, collect, record, map, and document specific site data, using existing historical site data for verification. Of the thirteen-member graduating class, six have since been hired by the college to work in GIS mapping and research, while others have gone on to industry positions.

"This unique program developed by Red Crow Community College has gained considerable merit and industry support, and could serve as a model for other institutions," said Lorne West, Forestry Liaison Manager in Alberta for Natural Resources Canada. "There certainly appears to be a strong and growing demand for people with this skill-set, both in the First Nations community and within the wider resource industry."

Program Coordinator, Francis First Charger, is excited about the interest generated within the community and beyond by the program and its students. "The idea that our own people will be able to complete traditional land use studies is being extremely well-supported. The program puts students in touch with the Blackfoot cultural ways and creates opportunities for them to learn from tribal Elders."

Mr. First Charger noted that it has also been rewarding to see the college program spark interest in higher education in the sciences, as well as traditional knowledge, and to see that a handful of its graduates are considering further post-secondary studies.

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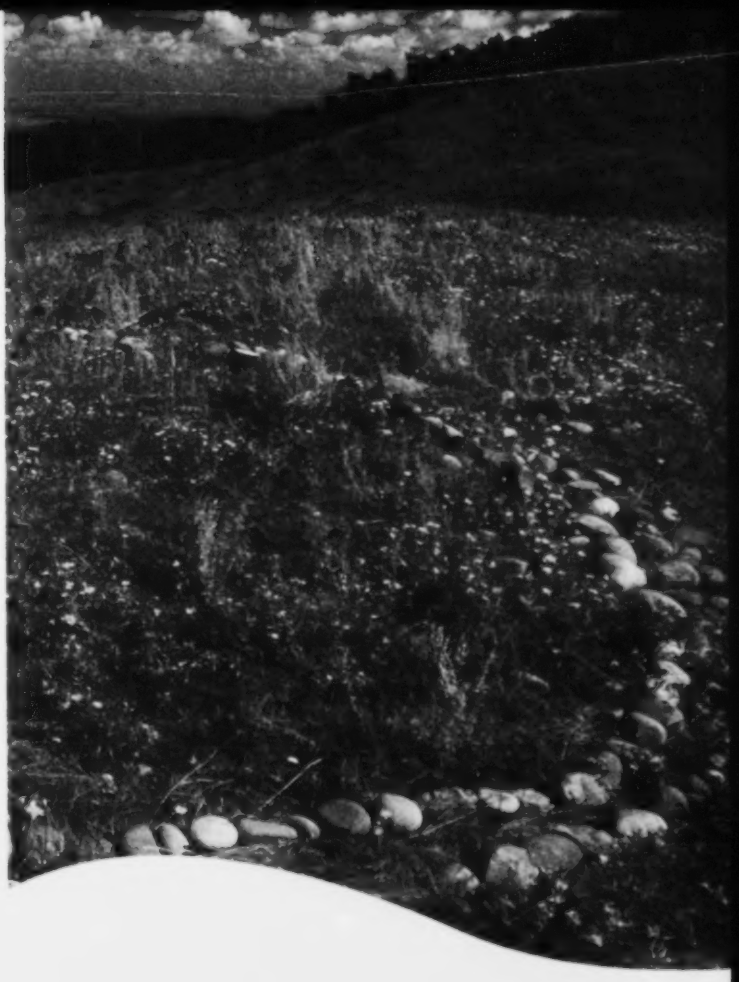
[2] Project partners include the Treaty Seven Economic Development Corporation, Blood Tribe Employment Skills and Training, and the Government of Alberta (Community Development, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, and Human Resources and Employment departments).

Six Nations First Nation Researches Their Land



The Six Nations of the Grand River community is located on prime forest land in south-western Ontario, a portion of which lies in the northern Carolinian Forest Zone. The Canadian portion of the Carolinian Forest Zone is a narrow strip of land in southern Ontario that runs from Grand Bend to Toronto. It boasts more species of flora and fauna than any other ecosystem in the country. This unique area has also been described as Canada's most endangered major ecosystem.

For all time, the forest has played an integral role in the cultural traditions of the Six Nations people. Those values, and the potential fragility of that portion of their land, make it is easy to understand why forest ecosystem protection and preservation, balanced with community tradition and developing land use needs, would be considered a high priority. With $11 000 from the FNFP, and in partnership with organisations such as the University of Guelph, University of Toronto, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), the Six Nations Eco Centre has implemented a land research development project, to collect baseline information and establish an integrated resource management system.

Six Nations community leaders believe this is a project whose time has come, and that this step is imperative to enhance their decision making, communication and forestry planning abilities. Numerous independent government and academic ecological studies have been conducted in this area, but the information gathered has never been integrated. Documentation and incorporation of Six Nations oral tradition into the process further enhances future forestry operations and assures preservation of traditional values.

Paul General, Manager of the Six Nations Eco Centre, says the Six Nations of the Grand River community has a huge responsibility, because they are sitting on one of the larger plots of Carolinian Forest in Canada. This project has provided an inventory of the land, resources and wildlife, which is invaluable to the decision-making process. "This information is crucial for future development and preservation on the reserve, for those who reside on Six Nations today and for future generations."

The Six Nations Eco Centre, which is spearheading this project, is often praised for its proactive environmental stance. This project is expected to further enhance the Centre's effectiveness. With the information gathered and tabulated from the land research development project, the Centre plans public information sessions to illustrate the uniqueness of the Six Nations First Nation Carolinian forest land, how it has changed over time, and the value of managing this delicate ecosystem by coupling modern techniques with teachings from the Elders.

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Federal Programs Working Together

- *First Nations Respond to the Mountain Pine Beetle Infestation*
- *New Brunswick Initiative Takes Off*

First Nations Respond to the Mountain Pine Beetle Infestation

By Marj Welsch
Ermine Communications
Victoria, British Columbia

Introduction

Although mountain pine beetles are natural to British Columbia's interior lodgepole pine forests, the current infestation has become the biggest in the province's recorded history. It's the result of a combination of effective wildfire suppression, which has led to an abundance of mature pine trees that are more likely to be attacked, and mild winters.

The infestation represents a serious threat to First Nations and forest communities across central British Columbia, with the added risk that it could spread to other types of pine trees. Outside of British Columbia, there are local outbreaks in western Alberta, the Cypress Hills area of southern Alberta and Saskatchewan, and border-states such as Washington, Idaho and Montana. If the current trend of mild winters and hot, dry summers continues in western Canada, researchers fear that the epidemic could spread into Alberta's lodgepole pine, whitebark pine and limber pine. It could even infest jack pine, which makes up much of the boreal forest that stretches from the Yukon to Atlantic Canada.

Federal Programs Work Together

"The mountain pine beetle infestation has created social, economic and environmental challenges that will be with us for a long time," says Nello Cataldo, Manager, Collaborative Forestry Programs with the Canadian Forest Service in Victoria. "Lodgepole pine makes up half of the annual harvest in British Columbia's Interior, and projections show that 80 per cent of this inventory could be killed by 2013."

"Although the First Nations Forestry Program (FNFP) and the Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative (MPBI)[1] have different objectives, they work collaboratively in helping First Nations reduce the damage to their forests and their economies caused by the beetles," Cataldo says. "FNFP helps to build technical capacity related to the beetles and supports off-reserve economic opportunities and partnerships. MPBI's focus is on forest health; and it supports projects that allow First Nations to use this expertise for operational activities such as controlling the infestation on their lands, reducing the risk of wildfire and rehabilitating damaged forests."

Ron Matthew of the Simpcw First Nation north of Kamloops, co-chair of the FNFP Management Board in British Columbia, believes FNFP has increased the technical capability of many First Nations so they can respond more effectively to the infestation. "A lot of management plans have been funded under FNFP and that ties right in with MPBI."

[1] The MPBI was launched by the Federal Government in October 2002 to help deal with the epidemic. One component of the Program is directed at the mountain pine beetle on First Nations reserve lands.

It's no surprise that MPBI-First Nations Element complements FNFP activities in British Columbia. After all, its technical advisory committee includes six First Nations representatives from reserves located in the beetle infestation zone who sit on FNFP's provincial management board.

Supporting First Nations Communities

"In the last 10 years, FNFP has supported a total of about 400 projects in British Columbia that have helped First Nation communities build forestry skills and forest-based business opportunities," says Cataldo. "Through MPBI, we are helping some of these same communities use these skills to look after their forests and protect their forest investment by controlling the infestation and rehabilitating damaged lands."

A number of projects since 2003 have received FNFP funding to help First Nations in British Columbia respond to the mountain pine beetle infestation. For example, the Upper Nicola Band east of Merritt received $25 000 to complete a community-based sustainable forestry plan aimed at minimizing beetle damage. The Nee-Tahi-Buhn Indian Band south of Burns Lake received $18 800 to work with a professional forestry consultant to manage its woodlot, focusing on stands that have been attacked or were most susceptible.

The Kamloops Indian Band received $24 900 from FNFP to develop a plan to salvage trees affected by the beetles, as well as forests damaged in 2003 by wildfire and wind. The Bonaparte Indian Band, located near Cache Creek, received $20 000 to develop a tenure application to access beetle-damaged wood from its traditional territories near Kamloops after the provincial government's chief forester increased the allowable annual cut in response to the infestation.

Ron Matthew says First Nations welcomed the addition of fuel management activities under MPBI in 2004. "We've accessed MPBI to make our community a little more fire safe." The beetle infestation is the result of a double whammy, he says, and adds that the province has done too good a job of fighting wildfire and the climate is warming up. Fire suppression has led to large areas of over-mature pine trees that attract beetles, and there is no extreme cold winter weather to knock out the infestation. Once the trees die, forest fuels build up and create a risk of severe wildfire. "First Nations used to burn vast tracts of the forest," Matthew says. "We know that fire is natural, it cleanses the ground and renews it."

When MPBI was launched, 75 First Nations had forest lands within the designated beetle infestation zone. By the end of 2004, the zone had expanded to include reserve lands of 92 First Nations. The epidemic likely will not end until most of the mature pine in the province has been infested.

British Columbia and Alberta Battle the Beetle

The close ties between FNFP and MPBI mean a lot to First Nations in Alberta who are trying to stay ahead of the mountain pine beetle. While the focus of MPBI is British Columbia, there have been scattered outbreaks of beetle infestation across the provincial boundary in Alberta.

Ken Porter, Director of Alexander Forest Services, a corporation of the Alexander First Nation in Fort Assiniboine, is only too aware of the risk this represents. "We want to protect our forests and stop mountain pine beetles from spreading further in Alberta."

A good way to slow the infestation is to put First Nations community members to work detecting the beetles and taking action to control them. From his office in Victoria, Cataldo works with Lorne West, who is involved with FNFP as forestry liaison manager with Natural Resources Canada at the Northern Forestry Centre in Edmonton. Together, they facilitated a partnership involving MPBI, Alexander Forest Services, Alexander First Nation and the Alberta Ministry of Sustainable Resource Development.

With funds from MPBI and support from the First Nation and the provincial ministry, band members were trained to conduct mountain pine beetle ground surveys so they could identify, remove and burn 900 beetle-infested trees in Willmore Wilderness Park near Jasper National Park. Falling and burning pine trees infested by the beetles is a well-established direct control measure used to slow the spread of the beetles.

"It was very much a case of practical, on-the-job training," says Porter. "They got lots of hands-on experience finding, felling and burning beetle-attacked trees to keep the insects from spreading to healthy trees nearby."

He points to the benefits for all partners. "The Alberta government wanted the infested trees in the park destroyed. We wanted to enhance our capacity for beetle control, and Natural Resources Canada provided assistance through MPBI."

The First Nations crews are still at work, and the numbers are growing. They are aiming to keep any infestation in check by detecting outbreaks in Alberta and taking steps to respond promptly when they occur.

West was pleased that the project takes advantage of earlier activities funded by FNFP. "Through FNFP, we have been helping First Nations in Alberta such as Alexander First Nation pursue wildfire certification for their members, and many communities have fire suppression contracts with the province. Beetle abatement involves many of the same skills, which means trained individuals can fight fires in the summer; cut and burn infested trees during the winter."

Reducing the Risk of Wildfire

Large areas of dead pine left in the wake of the mountain pine beetle infestation represent a potential wildfire hazard, something land managers in British Columbia have been regarding with greater urgency after the province's worst wildfire season on record in 2003.

Many years of fire suppression have allowed forest fuels to build up in British Columbia's forests, increasing the risk of catastrophic wildfires. This is of special concern in the wildland-urban interface where forests are close to human development and fire can spread from trees to structures.

In late 2004, MPBI was adjusted to include fuel management of beetle-killed stands near First Nations communities. First Nations can apply for funding to determine the level of fire risk and complete fuel treatments if the forests directly around their core community area have been attacked by the beetles or could be infested. Treatments include thinning, which can slow both the rate of fire and the spread of the beetles, as well as pruning, removing slash, creating fire breaks or planting deciduous trees that create less forest fuel.

The Penticton Indian Band's reserve land in the interior of the province is not far from the site of the Okanagan Mountain Park fire, which forced the evacuation of more than 33 000 people in 2003. When British Columbia's Protection Program mapped fuel conditions that threaten communities after the 2003 fire season, it identified interface areas of the Penticton Indian Band's reserve as a high priority for fuel reduction treatment.

With funding from MPBI, the band thinned and pruned mature pine stands near band housing and offices, and removed the slash. "Essentially we cut firebreaks into the ponderosa pine forests that run north and south on the west side of the valley," says band administrator Greg Gabriel. "We used silviculture techniques to prune and thin out the forest cover to reduce fire risk. The work will also help protect our pine stands from beetle infestation, because the thinning and pruning make the forest healthier."

Gabriel appreciates the fact that MPBI is allowing the band to complete some important work. "With our climate changing, we are seeing that our forests are coming under a lot of stress, and the build-up of fuel is a problem, too. We know we've got to take action now to manage the situation, to protect our forest resource and our communities."

The Challenges

Capturing Economic Value

The length of time that wood from beetle-killed trees remains merchantable depends on the species, the condition of the tree, the growing site and the potential products. If trees affected by the beetles are harvested within two or three years of attack, they retain most of their economic value.

"At FNFP, we are only too aware of the challenges that lie ahead for First Nations in British Columbia's interior," says Jack Smyth, Chief of Forestry Development and Aboriginal Affairs with FNFP in Ottawa. "It is really important that First Nations have a chance not only to harvest and sell the wood while it has economic value, but also to plan for the future when pine harvest levels will drop sharply. "While MPBI's land-based activities will help to speed up forest recovery, we know there will be economic impacts, so FNFP will be looking to work with First Nations to find ways to mitigate these impacts."

Through MPBI, the Lytton First Nation in southwest British Columbia hopes to harvest timber so it can control the infestation on its reserve lands and restore

the forest on a site harvested earlier. Bernadine Paul, a councillor with the First Nation, said MPBI funding "really does help us stay on top of this". She says the First Nation is using a portable sawmill to turn beetle-killed trees into lumber for reserve projects such as storage sheds, barns and fencing.

Near Enderby in the north Okanagan, the Spallumcheen Indian Band found infested forests when it completed a mountain pine beetle management strategy, so band members felled and burned 70 infested trees. There are plans now to harvest 15 hectares.

"It is definitely helping out the reserve," says forestry manager Jeff Eustache. "We reduce the fire hazard, create some employment and clean up some of the forest."

The Spallumcheen Indian Band is fortunate that its forests include a mix of tree species, which means the infestation is not as severe as in regions where forests contain more lodgepole pine. That's what is facing the Wet'suwet'en First Nation west of Burns Lake where the infestation has a solid hold.

A Wet'suwet'en First Nation MPBI project supported ground surveys to provide data for determining appropriate treatments. "Our surveys confirmed our fears," says forestry co-ordinator Reg Ogen. "We have a major, widespread infestation of mountain pine beetle and the epidemic puts valuable timber at risk. "In a way, we're fighting a losing battle. We're always going to be two steps behind the beetles. But we hope our management strategy helps us do our part to slow the infestation down on reserve land, at least, while giving us the opportunity to salvage fibre."

Protecting Forest Values

Mountain pine beetles may be natural in lodgepole pine ecosystems, but the current outbreak in British Columbia has reached such unprecedented levels that it is threatening forest values such as timber, range, recreation, biodiversity, scenery, fish and wildlife habitat and watersheds. First Nations are also concerned about the impact on traditional foods and medicines, hunting areas and cultural sites.

Control efforts such as sanitation harvesting that slow the spread of the infestation also help to protect forest values and speed up the rehabilitation of damaged forests. "The harvest is not sustainable because the goal is to gain as much economic value as possible from the damaged forests and restore them quickly," says Smyth. "Through FNFP's capacity-building projects, a number of First Nations are in a much stronger position to deal with the complexities involved."

The Ashcroft Indian Band has four reserves in one of British Columbia's driest regions, between Cache Creek and Ashcroft. Forests do not dominate the open range landscape but ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir grow in the gullies, and there are pockets of the pine infested with beetles.

"Forestry is more important from a land stewardship than an economic perspective for the band," says Ted Sales, a forestry consultant working for the Ashcroft Indian Band. "Agriculture is important. We don't want a lot of deadfall pine making it hard for the cattle to range. The area is heavily used for recreation by many people in this part of the country."

Through MPBI, the band has surveyed reserve lands to identify infested trees and plan sanitation harvesting. The urgency of responding to the beetles does not mean cutting corners. Two band members completed archaeological assessments to locate culturally significant sites so they will not be disturbed by beetle control measures.

Once harvesting is completed, Sales says the band plans to reforest the area, again with assistance through MPBI. "The band shares a commitment with their neighbours on this land to practise good stewardship. It's the right thing to do."

The First Nations Forestry Program and the Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative have both provided funds directed toward on-reserve forests. Complementing each other, these two initiatives have helped First Nations cope with one of Canada's most serious and damaging insect epidemics.

New Brunswick Initiative Takes Off

By Laura MacKenzie
Natural Resources Canada
Ottawa, Ontario

Introduction

Over 100 full-time jobs and 300 training opportunities for Aboriginal people in forestry are being created by the Aboriginal Skills Employment Partnership – New Brunswick (ASEP– NB Inc.) as part of a five-year initiative. First Nations, Aboriginal organisations, and the governments of Canada and New Brunswick have joined together in a ground-breaking project that works directly in partnership with the forestry industry to match people with the right jobs and training.

The project was announcement at the Atlantic Forestry Centre, one of Natural Resources Canada's five forestry research centres. It marks the beginning of a four-year training and skills development initiative that will enable Aboriginal peoples in New Brunswick to acquire transferable skills and take advantage of forestry employment opportunities throughout the province.

The announcement presented a unique opportunity for the FNFP to take the lead in building strong partnerships in New Brunswick among Aboriginal communities, the federal and provincial governments, and the local forest industry, with the shared goal of increasing Aboriginal participation specifically in the forestry sector. FNFP has been instrumental in bringing interested parties together under ASEP–NB Inc. with the purpose of establishing the New Brunswick Aboriginal Forestry Initiative, a $4 million five-year regional forestry skills training partnership initiative benefiting all 15 First Nations.

"This project will foster greater opportunities for Aboriginal employment through partnerships with Mi'kmaq and Maliseet communities," said New Brunswick Justice Minister Brad Green, the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs. "The leadership of Aboriginal partners, their foresight and spirit of co-operation are keys to the project's success."

Forestry Sector and Aboriginal Opportunities

The forest sector is an important part of New Brunswick's economy, contributing to over 15 000 direct jobs and almost as many indirect employment opportunities. Approximately $925 million in annual wages is generated from activities related to forestry through forest sector businesses such as the pulp and paper producers, the wood panel industry, sawmills, and those dealing with value-added processing. All of these areas have standing requests for skilled workers.

Until recently, Aboriginal forestry in New Brunswick consisted of modest on-reserve, short-term projects. The harvest of timber from 233 880 m^3 on crown lands introduced Aboriginal forestry as a significant contributor on the provincial scale. More than 500 Aboriginal forest workers are currently involved in the sector, and the opportunity exists to expand their involvement to areas such as transportation and technical support services.

With these opportunities identified, a framework was needed to promote maximum employment for

Aboriginal people and to help employers meet labour and skill shortages through training-to-retention plans.

Government, Aboriginal People, and Industry Working Together

To meet this goal, in October 2003 Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) announced an Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP) program, worth $85 million over 5 years, to support Aboriginal participation and jobs in resource development projects across Canada. Its overall objective was to create a program that would lead to lasting benefits for Aboriginal communities, families and individuals through sustainable employment in major economic initiatives such as northern mining, oil and gas, forestry, and hydro development projects across Canada.

"The ASEP approach brings us to the table with industry and government as full partners committed to securing sustainable employment and safeguarding the forests as a renewable resource," said Chief Robert Atwin, on behalf of the five Aboriginal partners.

In September 2004, an agreement was signed by all partners and ASEP–NB Inc. was created. Its Board of Directors is committed to the creation of 100 full-time jobs and 500 forestry training opportunities for New Brunswick's Aboriginal people. The partnership comprises representatives from the North Shore Micmac District Tribal Council, Mawiw Tribal Council, St. John River Valley Tribal Council, First Nations Human Resources Development Corporation, and the Aboriginal Peoples Council together with the Province of New Brunswick's Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat, Natural Resources Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, HRSDC, and the New Brunswick Forest Products Association. Both FNFP and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (through ASEP) contribute funding to the project.

ASEP in New Brunswick

Steve Ginnish, a forester from Eel Ground First Nation, heads up the ASEP–NB Inc.team of four people who administer the program. As Project Coordinator, he envisions the Aboriginal communities of New Brunswick joining together to help people develop useful skills and find jobs in the forestry industry. The team is working toward the goal of creating 200 new jobs within four years. The corporation's head office is located at Eel Ground First Nation near Miramichi City with day-to-day operations conducted from the Hugh John Flemming Forestry Centre in Fredericton.

"We've made the direct connection between First Nations people and the organisations that are doing the hiring," says Ginnish.

The FNFP is committed to contributing $70 000 per year. With contributions of $930 000 from the other partners, the initiative will have an annual funding level of $1 million from 2004–2005 to 2007–2008. Through this initiative, the partnership expects to create and retain up to 100 sustainable full-time jobs for Aboriginal people in the forest industry and to facilitat employment-related training and upgrading for an additional 500 forest sector workers.

Less than a year old, the project is already delivering results. "We now have close to 200 people participating," says Ginnish.

ASEP–NB Inc. encourages and ensures continuing collaboration among New Brunswick Aboriginal communities to promote forestry-related training and attract participants. Smaller communities also benefit from the province-wide program through access to a larger human resource pool. The initiative continues to bring employment opportunities to many individuals and communities that would not otherwise have the chance to develop job-ready skills. This program clearly illustrates the benefits derived from an investment in Aboriginal forestry, which in turn creates a long-term opportunity for regional economic development.

For more information on the program, go to www.asepnb.org/initiatives.htm

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Annexes

1. Project Listing by Province and Territory, 2004–2005

2. First Nations Forestry Program Data, 2004–2005

3. First Nations Statistical Profile

Annex 1. Project Listing by Province and Territory, 2004–2005

Title	Proponent	FNFP ($)	First Nation ($)	Partners ($)	Total Value ($)
Alberta					
Alexander First Nation—134A Mapping, Inventory, and Forest Management Plan	Alexander First Nation	10 000	10 000	0	20 000
Reforestation Activities on Alexis First Nation Reserve No. 232	Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation	18 337	10 350	2 000	30 687
Beaver First Nation Traditional Land Use and Occupancy Study	Beaver First Nation	20 000	11 500	126 375	157 875
Chipewyan Prairie Dene First Nation Traditional Land Use Study	Chipewyan Prairie First Nation	15 000	45 000	40 000	100 000
Support for a Temporary Forest Management Project Manager	Cold Lake First Nations	4 650	3 930	0	8 580
Driftpile First Nation Forestry Regeneration Program	Driftpile First Nation	25 000	9 758	1 000	35 758
Duncan's First Nation Reforestation	Duncan's First Nation	18 000	3 000	0	21 000
Seedling Culture and Facilities Management	Excel Society	20 000	0	0	20 000
Fort McMurray No. 468 First Nation TLUOS	Fort McMurray No. 468 First Nation	15 000	19 000	110 000	144 000
FireSmart Fire Protection Plan for Kapawe'no First Nation	Kapawe'no First Nation	15 000	7 500	0	22 500
Forestry-related Opportunities Coordinator	Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council	35 000	20 000	0	55 000
Geographic Information Systems Training	Little Red River Cree Nation	8 800	8 800	0	17 600
Maskwacis College Agroforestry Training Program	Maskwachees Cultural College	25 000	2 500	5 000	32 500
Mikisew Cree Traditional Land Use Study	Mikisew Cree First Nation	10 000	55 000	0	65 000
FireSmart Plan for Paul Band	Paul Band	15 000	4 000	0	19 000
Piikani Forestry Project—Operation Planning and Layout	Piikani Nation	37 500	15 865	0	53 365
Red Crow College Traditional Use Study	Red Crow Community College	30 000	65 375	201 210	296 585
Stoney Nakoda Regeneration Surveyor Certification and Regeneration Survey Program	Stoney Nakoda First Nation	5 950	5 196	0	11 146
Forest Inventory Update for Sturgeon Lake Indian Reserve No. 154	Sturgeon Lake Resources Ltd.	20 000	24 465	0	44 465
Fire Prevention and Fire Protection for Swan River First Nation	Swan River First Nation	15 000	4 000	0	19 000
Tallcree First Nation Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Study and Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA)	Tallcree First Nation	20 000	43 500	10 000	73 500
Conference Attendance Administration—Alberta FNFP Treaty Representatives	Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta	4 292	4 000	0	8 292
Woodland Cree Traditional Land Use and Occupancy Study, Part II	Woodland Cree First Nation	15 000	54 395	0	69 395

Title	Proponent	FNFP ($)	First Nation ($)	Partners ($)	Total Value ($)
Atlantic Region					
New Brunswick Aboriginal Forestry Initiative	ASEP–NB Inc.	70 000	0	851 782	921 782
Natuaganek Forestry Certification	Eel Ground (Natuaganek) First Nation	35 000	46 855	0	81 855
2004 Forest Management Activities	Eel River Bar First Nation	35 000	10 000	0	45 000
Elsipogtog GIS Mapping of Forest Resources and related assets including traditional resources to allow integrated forest management decision making	Elsipogtog First Nation	35 000	42 500	15 000	92 500
Demonstration Model forest	Madawaska Maliseet First Nation	32 560	0	12 500	45 060
Silviculture—Pre-commercial thinning	Pabineau First Nation	40 000	13 000	0	53 000
2004 Forest Management Plan Activities	Saint Mary's First Nation	35 000	11 769	0	46 769
Variable Retention Trial	Innu Nation	25 000	8 720	9 000	42 720
Nova Scotia First Nations Forestry (CMM) Program	Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq	181 300	81 100	0	262 400
Lennox Island Aboriginal Ecotourism—Marketing/Planning	Lennox Island	10 300	10 700	0	21 000
British Columbia					
Management Plan Update for XFP Forest Licence	An Dsap Wilp Society	25 000	25 000	80 000	130 000
Tenure Application to Harvest Beetle-infested Wood in Kamloops TSA	Bonaparte Indian Band	20 000	0	10 000	30 000
Sustainable Resource Management Plan for Bridge River Indian Band IR No. 1	Bridge River Indian Band	25 000	5 500	5 000	35 500
Cayoose Creek Forest Management Plan Update	Cayoose Creek Indian Band	25 000	2 000	7 280	34 280
Nechako Reservoir Submerged Timber: Research and Development/Marketing Project 2004	Cheslatta Carrier Nation	25 000	17 500	10 750	53 250
Non-Timber Forest Products Enterprise Centre—Trial Project	Cowichan Tribes	25 000	64 000	24 000	113 000
Feasibility and Market Study of Non-Timber Forest Products	Da'Naxda'xw/Awaetlala Nation	25 000	15 500	49 000	89 500
Diversifying the Economy through Value-added Products	Gingolx Village Government	25 000	61 000	12 000	98 000
Gitga'at Forest Stewardship Plan for Non-Replaceable Forest Licence	Gitga'at Development Corporation	25 000	18 300	21 700	65 000
Haida Forestry Strategic and Operating Plan	Haida Tribal Society	25 000	69 281	0	94 281
Proposal Preparation for FL A67048	Heiltsuk Tribal Council	25 000	80 000	90 000	195 000
Opportunity Assessment for Remanufacturing Wood Products	High Bar First Nation	25 000	9 900	0	34 900
Development Activities or Woodlot 1839 with Focus on 2003 Fire and Windstorm Damage	Kamloops Indian Band	24 900	13 200	10 400	48 500
First Nations Forestry Consulting Company Start-up	Kispiox Band Council	25 000	10 145	0	35 145
Getting into Morels and other Non-Timber Forest Products	Ktunaxa Kinbasket Treaty Financing Society	25 000	4 000	22 000	51 000

Title	Proponent	FNFP ($)	First Nation ($)	Partners ($)	Total Value ($)
Kwantlen Forestry Project	Kwantlen First Nation	24 800	6 200	0	31 000
Forest Management Plan for Woodlot Licence No. 351	Lower Similkameen Indian Band	25 000	11 500	0	36 500
Matsqui First Nation Bigleaf Maple Pilot Project	Matsqui First Nation	25 000	5 450	800	31 250
Timber Permit Preparation	Metlakatla Development Corporation	25 000	15 700	0	40 700
Nedo'ats (Old Fort) First Nations Forest-based Enhancement and Management Development	Nedo'ats (Old Fort) Band	24 000	6 000	0	30 000
Woodlot Licence 952 Ten-year Plan	Nee-Tahi-Buhn Indian Band	18 779	2 166	2 530	23 475
Woodlot Licence Forest Inventory and Allowable Annual Cut Re-calculation	Osoyoos Indian Band	21 292	5 651	0	26 943
Seabird Island Forestry Project 2004 – 2005	Seabird Island Band	24 702	6 460	105 000	136 162
SIB Tenure Acquisition Strategy	Sechelt Indian Band	25 000	30 200	12 000	67 200
Shackan Indian Band Forestry Planning and Development of WL1636 and Reserve Lands	Shackan Indian Band	25 000	15 880	7 275	48 155
Siska Traditions Projects Product Development and Marketing	Siska Indian Band	25 000	10 136	6 000	41 136
Skawahlook First Nation Sustainable Forest-based Businesses II	Skawahlook First Nation	25 000	55 000	69 400	149 400
Increased Efficiency of Skway Blocking Project	Skway First Nation	24 562	6 150	0	30 712
Economic Development of Squamish Nation Special Forests Products	Squamish Nation	25 000	5 700	15 000	45 700
Stekyoodenview and Silvicon Forestry Skill Enhancement	Stekyoodenview Contracting Ltd.	24 942	823	0	25 765
Lillooet Community Forest Application Development Process	T'it'q'et Administration	18 424	1 600	3 025	23 049
Small Log Chip 'n' Saw Mill Feasibility Study and Business Plan	Tobacco Plains Indian Band	10 490	3 025	0	13 515
Forest Licence Proposal Preparation	Toosey Indian Band	25 000	41 000	46 000	112 000
Ulkatcho First Nation Fire Readiness Plan	Ulkatcho First Nation	24 700	6 500	3 500	34 700
Upper Nicola Band Full Phase Forestry Management Proposal 2004 – 2005	Upper Nicola Band	25 000	7 415	0	32 415
Forest Management Plan for Woodlot Licence No. 1444	Upper Similkameen Indian Band	25 000	11 500	0	36 500
Manitoba					
Berens River Cabinet Shop	Berens River First Nation	25 000	71 500	12 000	108 500
FNFP Conference/Mechanical Logging Training	Black River First Nation	18 000	7 000	2 000	27 000
Seedling Culture and Facilities Management	Excel Society	5 000	0	0	5 000
Junior Ranger Program	First Nation Limited Partnership	4 000	33 000	15 500	52 500
Forestry Operations Training	Grand Rapids Development Corporation	35 000	122 565	0	157 565
Harvesting Training	Kinonjeoshtegon First Nation	15 000	30 500	19 500	65 000
In-Ni-Ni-Wuk Sawmilling & Marketing Initiative	Moose Lake Logging (92) Ltd.	21 600	31 800	0	53 400
Log Cabin "Visitor Center" Project, Phase II	Ochekwi Sipi Economic Development Corporation	27 750	11 885	5 119	44 754

Title	Proponent	FNFP ($)	First Nation ($)	Partners ($)	Total Value ($)
OCN Forestry Management	Opaskwayak Cree Nation	10 000	15 460	0	25 460
Forest Harvesting Training Program	Pegus Development Corporation	28 250	116 141	0	144 391
Rolling River's Logging Project	Rolling River First Nation	15 000	36 080	0	51 080
Forest Worker Training	RonCour Forestry	18 000	26 800	10 800	55 600
Forestry Program	Swampy Cree Tribal Council	49 250	59 460	13 000	121 710
Conference Support for FNFP Conference in Thunder Bay	Swampy Cree Tribal Council	15 000	5 000	0	20 000
National Capital Region					
Forest Stewardship Certification Assessor Training for First Nations	Aboriginal Strategy Group	3 000	19 000	5 000	27 000
Forest Certification Exploration of Reserve Lands	Aboriginal Strategy Group	16 775	4 200	0	20 975
A Study of Relationships between Aboriginal Peoples and the Forest Industry The Legal and Policy Context	National Aboriginal Forestry Association	21 250	2 750	9 000	33 000
A Review of the National Aboriginal Forestry Association's Aboriginal Forest Land Management Guidelines and Development of a First Nations Forestry Training Module	National Aboriginal Forestry Association	12 000	1 000	5 000	18 000
National Aboriginal Forestry Conference and Annual General Meeting (February 2005)	National Aboriginal Forestry Association	29 000	11 350	105 650	146 000
Study — The Relevance of Major Forest Sector Issues to the Development of Aboriginal Communities	National Aboriginal Forestry Association	15 000	5 000	0	20 000
Aboriginal Times	Niche Publishing Inc	12 500	12 500	0	25 000
Northwest Territories					
Forestry/Environment Skills and Training Opportunity Assessment	Deh Cho First Nations	26 600	6 650	0	33 250
Conference Attendance Administration - Denendeh FNFP Representatives	Deh Cho First Nations	4 450	4 000	0	8 450
Sharing Knowledge of Forests in the Gwich'in Settlement Area	Gwich'in Tribal Council	10 000	7 600	0	17 600
Completion of Forest Management Plan for Jean Marie River First Nation	Jean Marie River First Nation	20 000	63 000	0	83 000
Louis Norwegian School Student Silviculture Project	Jean Marie River First Nation	4 290	1 000	4 600	9 890
Ontario					
Forestry Business Planning	Animbigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek	16 000	23 830	3 500	43 330
Traditional Land Use Plan for AKRC Territory	Anishinaabeg of Kabapikotawangag Resource Council Inc	18 000	13 993	6 350	38 343
Forest Management Plan and Remedial Treatment and Training	Beausoleil First Nation	27 613	80 917	26 893	135 423
Natural Resource Management Strategy Development Project	Chapleau Cree First Nation	18 000	20 500	4 000	42 500
Development of Forestry Operations	Couchiching First Nation	12 000	25 000	17 882	54 882

Title	Proponent	FNFP ($)	First Nation ($)	Partners ($)	Total Value ($)
Development of Sustainable Forest Management Practices and Forest Management Company	Dokis First Nation	18 000	42 250	0	60 250
Capacity Building: Silviculture and Harvesting Operations Training	Eshkawkogan Timber Company	21 000	428 539	0	449 539
First Nation Forestry Youth Employment Program	Fort William First Nation	60 000	10 000	549 594	619 594
Natural Resource Development Strategy	Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 Independent First Nation	11 974	27 000	62 700	101 674
Forestry Training and Education	Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation	20 533	5 440	0	25 973
Traditional Ecological Knowledge Approaches and Solutions	Lake Superior First Nations Development Trust	6 788	2 078	0	8 866
Submerged Timber Retrieval Project	Long Lake No. 58 First Nation	18 000	300 000	442 500	760 500
Forest Management Strategic Planning Project	Matachewan First Nation	18 000	22 696	39 840	80 536
Partial Harvesting Trial	Mattagami First Nation	17 000	2 500	55 500	75 000
Development and Implementation of Forestry Training Program	Missanabie Cree First Nation	18 000	5 000	0	23 000
Conference Delegate Travel to FNFP National Conference on Aboriginal Forestry	Mississauga First Nation	3 000	1 832	0	4 832
Delegate Travel to FNFP National Conference on Aboriginal Forestry	Mitigaawaaki Forestry Marketing Cooperative Inc.	10 212	0	4 700	14 912
Biomass Fueled Energy Center for AMW Complex: A Feasibility Study	Mitigaawaaki Forestry Marketing Cooperative Inc.	7 663	9 440	0	17 103
Far North EPR Forest Firefighting Business Development Project	Moose Cree First Nation	14 162	7 432	26 500	48 094
Forestry Corporation and Partnership Development	Namaygoosisagagun Ojibways Development Corporation	21 000	64 755	0	85 755
FNFP Conference Coordination Services	National Aboriginal Forestry Association	25 036	0	0	25 036
Lands and Resource Unit Capacity Building 1) Resource Access & Business Planning and 2) Delegate Travel to NAFA Conference and 3) Puchase of Digitized Board & Computer Equipment	Nishnawbe Aski Nation North Shore Tribal Council	18 000 43 128	37 333 137 917	55 333 156 000	110 666 337 045
Business Plan for Sawmill Expansion	Ominik Forestry Limited	15 000	5 000	0	20 000
Creating Successful First Nation Timber Harvesting Companies in Ontario	Robinson Huron Forestry Company Inc.	8 000	6 500	10 200	24 700
Digital Forest Management Information System	Serpent River First Nation	17 000	10 700	19 250	46 950
"Under the Canopy" Non-timber Forest Products Pre-conference Workshop	Shawanaga First Nation	10 341	0	3 500	13 840
Integrated Resource Management Initiative	Six Nations of the Grand River	11 000	27 350	12 350	50 700
Capacity Building in the Forest Sector	United Chiefs and Councils of Manitoulin (UCCM)	18 000	10 000	0	28 000
Review of Forest Management Policy	Walpole Island First Nation	20 062	6 000	14 400	40 462
Forest Management Strategic Planning	Washagamis Bay First Nation	9 000	3 500	0	12 500
Whitefeather Forest Initiative Development Planning Support	Whitefeather Forest Management Corporation	11 000	34 700	0	45 700
Forest Management Plan	Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve	18 000	10 000	0	28 000

Title	Proponent	FNFP ($)	First Nation ($)	Partners ($)	Total Value ($)
Quebec					
On-reserve forest management. On-reserve forest management plan. Study of management model wood vs. blueberry culture. Improvement of management methods.	Betsiamites	57 700	271 270	11 981	340 951
Development of an allocation plan for traditional land.	Conseil de la Nation Anishnabe du Lac Simon	20 536	9 574	0	24 304
Business plan and training plan for silviculture and portative sawmill.	Conseil de la Nation Huronne-wendat	22 640	244 605	0	267 245
Elaboration of a forest development plan for the Gespeg nation.	Conseil de la Nation Micmac de Gespeg	16 460	6 857	0	23 317
Forest development three-year agreement.	Conseil de la Première Nation Abitibiwinni	25 727	9 970	0	35 697
On-reserve forest management.	Conseil des Abénakis d'Odanak	4 945	1 353	0	6 298
Forest expertise and skills development in Kitcisakik.	Conseil des Anicinapek de Kitcisakik	28 527	141 380	30 000	199 907
Analysis of a forest problem (hardwood invasion) on traditional territory.	Conseil des Innus d'Essipit	9 628	11 547	0	21 175
Development and implementation of Aboriginal harmonization measures. Forest workers training program.	Conseil des Montagnais de Natashquan	18 503	21 490	0	39 993
ISO 9001 certification implementation for two communities.	Conseil des Montagnais du Lac St-Jean	25 611	6 323	60 151	92 085
Hire a forest engineer.	Innu Takuaikan Uashat Mak Mani-Utenam	15 541	5 276	0	20 817
Elaboration of an Aboriginal harmonization measures guide. Support for the Aboriginal Provincial Forestry Committee.	Institut de développement durable des Premières Nations du Québec et du Labrador (IDD - PNQL)	36 223	12 048	0	48 271
Community consultation on harmonisation measure, training and forest management activities on-reserve.	Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg	45 870	137 299	0	183 169
On-reserve forest management and forestry economic development plan.	Micmacs of Gesgapegiag	25 320	27 880	0	53 200
On-reserve forest management and technical services.	Première Nation Malécite de Viger	1 605	401	0	2 006
Development of capacity in forest management, increasing of forestry knowledge.	SEC Services forestiers Atikamekw Aski	34 665	150 116	1 000	185 781
Implementation of a certification program.	SEC Services forestiers Opitciwan	25 840	54 416	64 002	144 258
On-reserve forest management. Training of two managers. Increase community knowledge of forest management.	Services forestiers et territoriaux de Manawan	33 870	80 593	0	114 463
Training of forestry workers and making of a forestry potential development plan.	Tawish Construction Inc.	35 043	135 986	0	171 029
Training of forest workers on GIS, multiresource survey, harmonization measures and survey of riparian strip.	Timiskaming First Nation	22 880	179 794	0	202 674
On-reserve forest management.	Waswanipi Mishtuk Corporation	57 700	581 886	0	639 586

Title	Proponent	FNFP ($)	First Nation ($)	Partners ($)	Total Value ($)
Saskatchewan					
FireSmart/Wood Salvage	Birch Narrows First Nation	10 000	5 542	0	15 542
Buffalo River Dene Nation Forest Inventory	Buffalo River Dene Nation	10 000	6 185	0	16 185
Fire Guard Implementation	Day Star First Nation	15 000	40 770	0	55 770
Forest Resource Liaison	Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations	36 500	15 500	0	52 000
Conventional Harvesting Training	Island Lake First Nation	35 500	76 846	0	112 346
Fire Fighting/Chainsaw-Brushsaw/ First Aid/CPR/Training Course	Kawacatoose	11 000	15 055	0	26 055
Forest Communities FireSmart Program	Lac La Ronge Indian Band	22 500	19 100	3 000	44 600
Log Truck Driving Course	Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation	10 000	5 653	0	15 653
Lands & Resources Dept. Support for Meadow Lake Tribal Council	Meadow Lake Tribal Council	19 500	8 220	0	27 720
MLTC School to Work	Meadow Lake Tribal Council	17 000	15 081	0	32 081
Conference Support	Meadow Lake Tribal Council	10 000	7 022	0	17 022
Mistawasis Stand Tending and Vegetation Management	Mistawasis First Nation	20 000	47 550	0	67 550
AMISK-ATIK Forestry and Co-Management Development	Pelican Narrows Community Forestry Inc.	34 500	95 500	0	130 000
PBCN Forest Resource Management/ Development Plan	Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation	19 500	150 500	0	170 000
Wildland Firefighter Certification	Prince Albert Grand Council	40 500	158 800	32 000	231 300
FireSmart Project	Waterhen Lake First Nation	25 500	14 896	0	40 396
Integrated Resource Management Plan and Forestry Management Strategy	White Bear First Nation No. 70	18 000	132 000	18 000	168 000
Refining Volume Estimates of Forest Types in the East Forest Fringe for Yellow Quill Development Corporation	Yellow Quill Development Corporation	20 500	18 100	11 000	49 600
Yukon Territory					
FNFP Yukon 2004–2005	Council of Yukon First Nations	98 200	24 862	0	123 062

Annex 2. First Nations Forestry Program Data, 2004–2005

Table 1A. Number and dollar value of proposals submitted and approved in 2004–2005.

	Eligible Projects Submitted		Projects Approved for Funding		
	No. of Projects	Total Value ($)[a]	No. of Projects	Approval Rate (%)	Total Value ($)[b]
BC	80	1870889	36	45	861591
AB	29	803583	23	79	402529
SK	35	1445133	18	51	375500
MB	19	658514	14	74	286850
ON	42	1192008	33	79	580511
QC	26	1873889	21	81	563741
NB	7	300882	7	100	282560
NL	2	80000	1	50	25000
NS	1	153300	1	100	181300
PE	1	10300	1	100	10300
NT	7	106150	5	71	65340
YT	1	98200	1	100	98200
National	8	119435	7	88	109525
Total	258	8712283	168	65	3842947

[a] Equals FNFP funds requested, plus contributions to projects by First Nations and partners.

[b] Equals FNFP funds allocated, plus contributions to projects by First Nations and partners.

Table 2A. 2004–2005 Expenditures by partners, by province/territory ($).[a]

	FNFP	First Nations			Partners			
	Cash	Cash	In-kind	Total	Cash	In-kind	Total	Total
BC	861591	342751	306631	649382	301850	310810	612660	2123633
AB	402529	258829	168305	427134	475985	19600	495585	1325248
SK	375500	651397	180923	832320	0	64000	64000	1271820
MB	286850	347781	219410	567191	69919	8000	77919	931960
ON	580511	1062689	319514	1382203	1299367	211625	1510992	3473706
QC	563741	1943339	142012	2085351	167134	0	167134	2816226
NB	282560	30855	93269	124124	851782	27500	879282	1285966
NL	25000	0	8720	8720	5000	4000	9000	42720
NS	181300	10000	71100	81100	0	0	0	262400
PE	10300	3500	7200	10700	0	0	0	21000
NT	65340	0	82250	82250	0	4600	4600	152190
YT	98200	0	24862	24862	0	0	0	123062
National	109525	41950	13850	55800	124650	0	124650	289975
Total	3,842,947	4693091	1638046	6331137	3295687	650135	3945822	14119906
	27%	33%	12%	45%	23%	5%	28%	100%

[a] Subject to audit.

Annex 3. First Nations Statistical Profile

First Nations Demographics

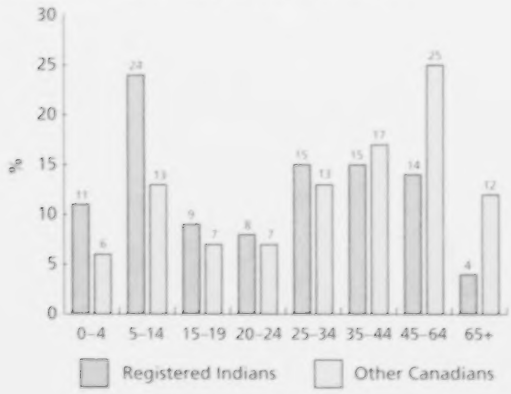
The First Nations labour force is youthful and growing: 52% of the First Nations population is under the age of 25, compared to 32% of the rest of the population[4] (see Figure 1A).

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada reports that in 2001, 703,800 people identified themselves as First Nations and that by 2021, this number could increase by 34% to 940,000 people.[5]

Compared with the total Canadian population, the First Nation population is likely to continue its faster growth rate. The average annual rate of increase for the First Nation population (1.5%)[6] was projected to be more than double the rate projected for the total population of Canada (0.7%).[7]

During the period 2001–2021, a large number of young adults from the First Nation population will be entering the labour market. The percentage of First Nations people in the working age group (age 20–64) is expected to increase from 53% to 59% in this 20-year period.[8]

Figure 1A. Age demographics in Canada.

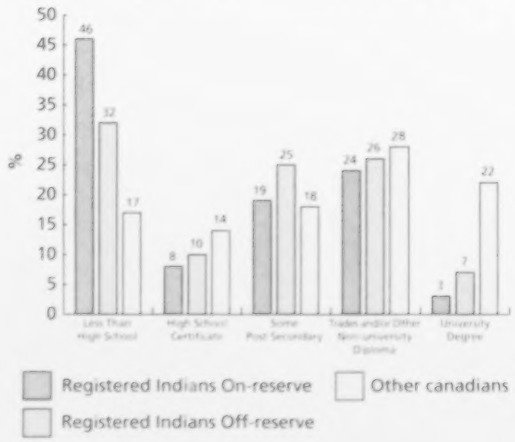


Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Census.

Education

First Nations in Canada continue to have lower educational achievement levels than other Canadians, especially those living on reserves. Based on 2001 census data, almost half (46%) of First Nations aged 25–44 living on reserves have not completed high school, compared to 17% of other Canadians. The portion of First Nations with a university degree is only a fraction of the percentage of other Canadians with a university degree (see Figure 2A).

Figure 2A. Highest level of education (25–44 years).



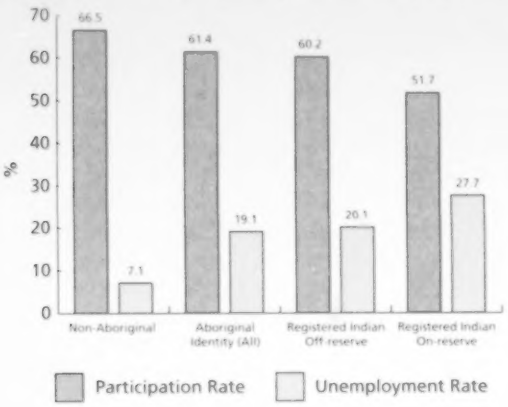
Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Census.

Labour Force Participation and Income

First Nations in Canada are less likely to participate in the labour force and have much a higher unemployment rate than non-Aboriginal Canadians. The gap is larger for those living on reserves. In 2001, First Nations living on reserve had a 52% labour force participation rate, compared to 67% for non-Aboriginal Canadians. (The participation rate measures the supply of labour—the employed and the unemployed combined—relative to the size of the working-age population.) The unemployment rate

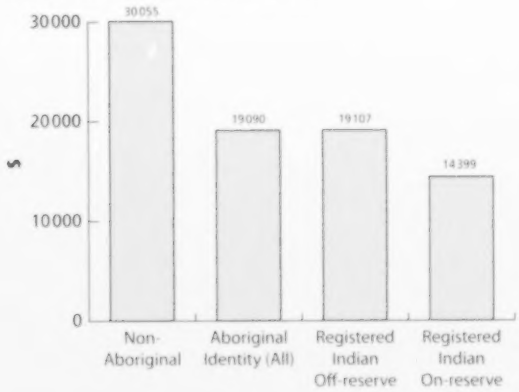
[4] Source: Statistics Canada Census 2001.
[5] Source: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Basic Departmental Data 2003.
[6] Source: Registered Indian Population Projections for Canada and Regions 2000–2021.
[7] Source: Statistics Canada Census 2001.
[8] Source: Registered Indian Population Projections for Canada and Regions 2000–2021.

Figure 3A. Labour force participation and employment.



Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Census.

Figure 4A. Average total income.



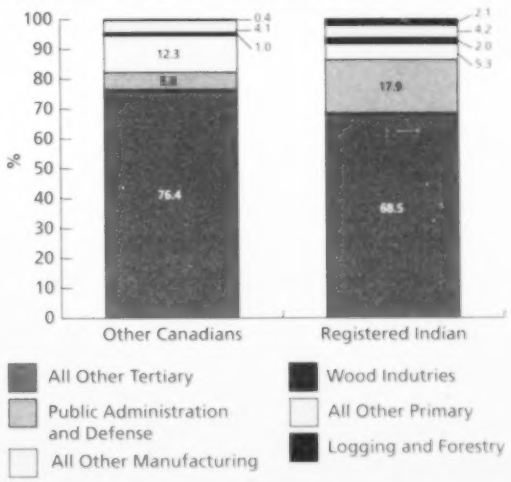
Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Census.

for First Nations living on reserve was 28%, compared to 7% for non-Aboriginal Canadians. In some provinces, for example Saskatchewan and Manitoba, the unemployment rate for First Nations living on reserves is over 30% (see Figure 3A).

There is also a significant income gap. On average, non-Aboriginal Canadians have 44% higher total income than First Nations (see Figure 4A).

First Nations are more likely to be working in the primary sector compared to non-Aboriginal Canadians. Forestry and logging are an important source of employment for First Nations: First Nations are over five times more likely to be employed in the logging and forestry sector than other Canadians. In some regions of Canada, this percentage is much higher (see Figure 5A). Other labour force statistics are available in Table 3A.

Figure 5A. Labour force composition.



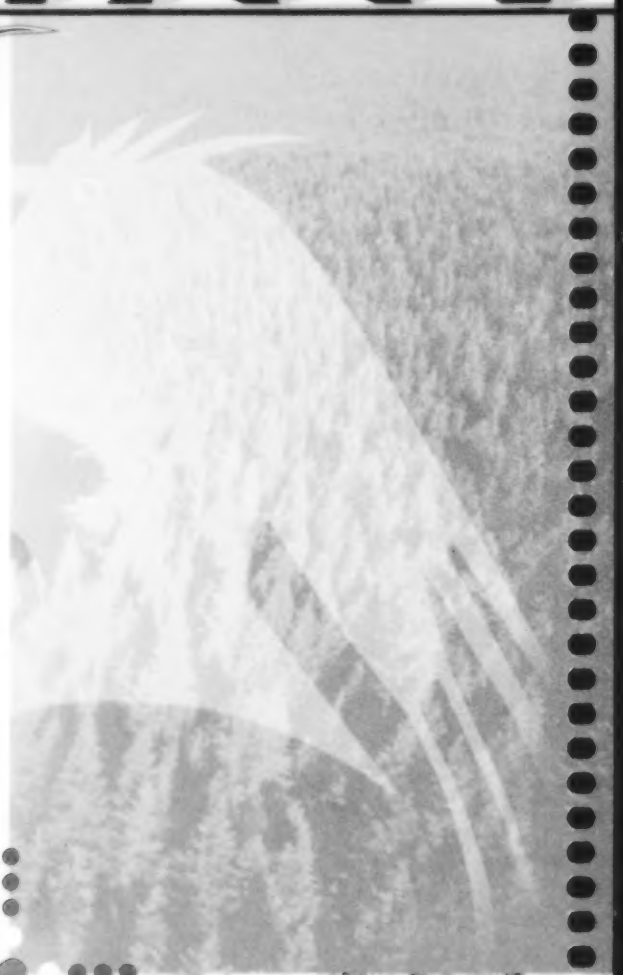
Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Census.

Table 3A. Labour force statistics—Aboriginal and registered Indian.

	Non-Aboriginal		Aboriginal Identity (All)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Population 15 +	11 322 580	11 943 705	304 215	330 870
Participation Rate (%)	72.9	60.6	66.8	56.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.3	7	21.4	16.7
Employment Rate (%)	67.6	56.3	52.5	47
Average Total Income ($)	37 257	23 061	21 916	16 459
Median Total Income ($)	29 721	17 269	15 490	12 295
Average Employment Income ($)	38 679	24 557	24 680	17 872
Median Employment Income ($)	31 021	20 032	19 972	13 374

	Registered Indian On-reserve (includes northern communities)		Registered Indian Off-reserve	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Population 15 +	86 375	84 610	77 860	102 225
Participation Rate (%)	56	47.3	67.8	54.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	32.7	21.8	21.3	19
Employment Rate (%)	37.7	37	53.3	44.1
Average Total Income ($)	14 882	13 900	22 762	16 311
Median Total Income ($)	10 498	10 741	15 716	12 161
Average Employment Income ($)	17 676	15 772	25 775	17 901
Median Employment Income ($)	13 006	12 016	20 053	13 051

Source: Statistics Canada 2001 Census



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